

12/16/63

AIRTEL

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (100-384660)

FROM : SAC, NEW YORK (100-107419)

SUBJECT: EMERGENCY CIVIL LIBERTIES COMMITTEE  
IS - C: ISA of 1950  
(OO: NY)

Forwarded herewith are five copies of a letterhead memorandum concerning the 12/13/63 dinner of the Emergency Civil Liberties Committee. The first source is [REDACTED]

The following sources furnished the characterizations of the individuals listed below:

[REDACTED]

The statement in the letterhead memorandum made by BOB DYLAN pertaining to the assassination of President KENNEDY, has been furnished to the Secret Service in New York City.

- 4 - Bureau (100-384660) (Encls. 12) (RM)
- 1 - (100-3-104-34) (CPUSA, COUNTERINTELLIGENCE PROGRAM) - N.Y.
- 1 - [REDACTED]
- 1 - NY 100-129602 (CPUSA, COUNTERINTELLIGENCE PROGRAM) (41)
- 1 - NY 100-107419 (41)

HEN:mjo

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ENCLOSURE

100-3-104-34  
NOT RECORDED  
29 JAN 3 1964

61 JAN 10 1964

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NY 100-107419

Under the Counterintelligence Program it is urged that this statement of BOB DYLAN, made at this meeting, be brought to the attention of all the Bureau's contacts in the mass media field so that proper publicity will be given to DYLAN, who by means of his folksinging, has the ability to have some communication with American youth. In addition, publicity of this sort will point up the type organization Emergency Civil Liberties Committee is to honor an individual of DYLAN's mentality. With the large number of persons in attendance, the NYO does not believe that the security of any informant would be in jeopardy.

The letterhead memorandum is being classified "Confidential" inasmuch as the disclosure of the information furnished by the fourth and sixth sources, informants of continuing value, could possibly result in identification of informants and thus impair the national defense interest of the country.



New York, New York  
December 16, 1953

Re: Emergency Civil Liberties Committee  
Internal Security - C  
Internal Security Act of 1950

A source advised on December 16, 1953, that on the evening of December 13, 1953, the Tenth Annual Bill of Rights Dinner, sponsored by the Emergency Civil Liberties Committee (ECLC), was held in the Imperial Ballroom, Americana Hotel, New York City, with approximately 1500 persons in attendance.

A characterization of the ECLC is contained in the appendix hereto.

The affair was opened by Corliss Lamont, who introduced Dr. Alexander Meiklejohn, a recent recipient of an award from President Lyndon B. Johnson, who cut the cake commemorating the 172nd anniversary of the Bill of Rights and the 12th anniversary of the ECLC.

On September 28, 1953, Louis Budenz, former managing editor of the "Daily Worker", an East Coast Communist newspaper which suspended publication January 13, 1953, testified before the United States Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Government Operations. In this testimony Budenz stated that Earl Browder, as head of the Communist Party (CP) in the United States, had referred to Corliss Lamont as one of the "four prides" of the CP because Lamont was always ready to cooperate with any Communist front or any Communist cause. Browder made this reference at a National Committee meeting of the CP in the early 1940's. Budenz also testified that Corliss Lamont was a member of the CP whom he, Budenz, was a member.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

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On August 26, 1949, a second source made available a release which was publicized by the American Committee for Protection of Foreign Born (ACFPB), which contained a listing of the sponsors of the ACPFB. The name Dr. Alexander Meiklejohn, California Institute of Technology, Berkeley, California, was contained on this list.

Corliss Lamont then introduced John Henry Faulk, the toastmaster of the evening, who, in turn, introduced the first speaker Mrs. Cyrus Eaton, wife of the Ohio Industrialist.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Mrs. Cyrus Eaton, in her remarks, stated that the American Negro is achieving the impossible. She stated that the spirit of the Negro is visualized throughout the world and that if we wake up, the American spirit can change the world.

Clark Foreman then presented the annual "Tom Paine Award" of the ECLC, given annually to the foremost fighter for civil liberties, to the folksinger Bob Dylan.

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Bob Dylan, in his acceptance speech, stated that he saw in Lee Harvey Oswald, "the man who killed the President," things that are in himself. He stated that he doesn't think he would go that far but he isn't sure.

In testimony before the Senate Subcommittee on Internal Security, on August 22, 1951, Clark Foreman was described as a Communist by Louis Eudenz, former Managing Editor, "Daily Worker," east coast Communist newspaper, which suspended publication January 13, 1958.

A fifth source advised on May 9, 1962, that Bob Dylan, on April 25, 1962, participated in a "Festival Folk and Jazz Concert" which was sponsored by the United States Festival Committee.

A characterization of the United States Festival Committee Incorporated is attached hereto.

Corliss Lamont, in attempting to interpret the statement made by Bob Dylan, stated that he believed that Dylan wanted to say that he felt a feeling of guilt as we all should in causing the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

James Baldwin also spoke at the dinner, at which time he stated that the freedom march in August, 1963, of 250,000 individuals wanted a redress of grievances. He stated that these people wanted to tell this country of their troubles and tell of the troubles of our country. He stated that he has never been afraid of Russia, China or Cuba but he is terrified of this country. He stated that apathy allows thousands of people in the deep South to perish, not only Negroes. He stated that the real victim is the poor white man who does these things because he was told generations ago to do them.



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A characterization of the National Lawyers Guild is attached hereto.

The ACPFB has been designated pursuant to Executive Order 10450.



APPENDIX

EMERGENCY CIVIL LIBERTIES COMMITTEE

The "Guide to Subversive Organizations and Publications," revised and published as of December 1, 1951, prepared and released by the Committee on Un-American Activities, United States House of Representatives, Washington, D.C., contains the following concerning the Emergency Civil Liberties Committee:

"Emergency Civil Liberties Committee

- "1. 'The Emergency Civil Liberties Committee is an organization with headquarters in New York, whose avowed purpose is to abolish the House Committee on Un-American Activities and discredit the FBI. \* \* \* The committee finds that the Emergency Civil Liberties Committee, established in 1951, although representing itself as a non-Communist group, actually operates as a front for the Communist Party. It has repeatedly assisted, by means of funds and legal aid, Communists involved in Smith Act violations and similar legal proceedings. One of its chief activities has been and still is the dissemination of voluminous Communist propaganda material.'

'FRANK WILKINSON was called as a witness when he appeared in Atlanta as a representative of the Emergency Civil Liberties Committee to propagandize against the Committee on Un-American Activities and to protest its hearings. In 1950 WILKINSON was identified as a Communist Party member by a former FBI undercover agent within the party. Summoned at that time to answer the allegation, his reply to all questions was, "I am answering no questions of this committee." This also became his stock reply to questions when he appeared during the Atlanta hearings. \* \* \* WILKINSON has since been convicted of contempt of Congress and sentenced to one year in jail.'



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APPENDIX

EMERGENCY CIVIL LIBERTIES COMMITTEE (CONT'D)

'Disputing the non-Communist claim of the organization, the committee finds that a number of other individuals connected with the ECLC also have been identified under oath as Communists.

\* \* \*

(Committee on Un-American Activities, Annual Report for 1958, House Report 187, March 9, 1959, pp. 34 and 35.)

'To defend the cases of Communist law-breakers, fronts have been devised making special appeals in behalf of civil liberties and reaching out far beyond the confines of the Communist Party itself. Among these organizations are the \* \* \* Emergency Civil Liberties Committee. When the Communist Party itself is under fire these fronts offer a bulwark of protection.'

(Internal Security Subcommittee of the Senate Judiciary Committee, Handbook for Americans, S. Doc. 117, April 23, 1956, p. 91.)"



Agency Civil Liberties Committee  
Internal Security-C  
1. Internal Security Act of 1950  
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THE UNITED STATES FESTIVAL COMMITTEE, INCORPORATED  
(EIGHTH WORLD YOUTH FESTIVAL)

The third 1961 issue of "World Youth," a publication of World Federation of Democratic Youth (WFDY), reported that the first meeting of the International Preparatory Committee (IPC) took place at Helsinki, Finland, on February 20-22, 1961, to prepare for the Eighth World Youth Festival to be held in Helsinki, in 1962. At the meeting, the IPC elected a permanent commission composed of representatives of a number of countries including Canada, the United States, as well as representatives of WFDY and the International Union of Students (IUS).

The IUS with headquarters in Prague, Czechoslovakia, and the WFDY with headquarters in Budapest, Hungary, are cited as communist organizations in the "Guide to Subversive Organizations and Publications" dated December 1, 1961, published by the Committee on Un-American Activities, United States House of Representatives, Washington, D.C., pages 91 and 177.

A source advised that in April, 1961, DANNY RUBIN, National Youth Director, Communist Party, United States of America (CPUSA), advised that CP districts should concentrate on getting broad groups to sponsor the United States Festival Committee (USFC).

A pamphlet issued by the USFC described the program for the Festival and advised that the USFC was organized by students and youth leaders at a founding conference at Chicago, Illinois, October 15, 1961, to publicize and encourage participation in the Helsinki Festival. The USFC had been recognized by the IPC, the sponsoring body of the Festival, as the United States Committee to administer United States participation in the Festival.

On August 20, 1963, a second source reported the USFC: Post Office Box 172, Highbridge Station, Bronx 52, New York, had been closed July 1, 1963 and mail since the latter date had been forwarded to [REDACTED]



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THE UNITED STATES FESTIVAL COMMITTEE, INCORPORATED  
(EIGHTH WORLD YOUTH FESTIVAL)

A third source, in the summer of 1962, advised that [REDACTED] was a member of the CP.

On August 20, 1963, a telephone call, under suitable pretext, was made by a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) to [REDACTED] at his residence. [REDACTED] advised that the USFC is inactive at this time and maintains no headquarters.



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NATIONAL LAWYERS GUILD

The "Guide to Subversive Organizations and Publications," revised and published as of December 1, 1961, prepared and released by the Committee on Un-American Activities, United States House of Representatives, Washington, D.C., contains the following concerning the National Lawyers Guild:

"National Lawyers Guild

- "1. Cited as a Communist front.  
(Special Committee on Un-American Activities, House Report 1311 on the CIO Political Action Committee, March 29, 1944, p. 149.)
- "2. Cited as a Communist front which 'is the foremost legal bulwark of the Communist Party, its front organizations, and controlled unions' and which 'since its inception has never failed to rally to the legal defense of the Communist Party and individual members thereof, including known espionage agents.'  
(Committee on Un-American Activities, House Report 3123 on the National Lawyers Guild, September 21, 1950, originally related September 17, 1950.)
- "3. 'To defend the cases of Communist lawbreakers, fronts have been devised making special appeals in behalf of civil liberties and reaching out far beyond the confines of the Communist Party itself. Among these organizations are the \* \* \* National Lawyers Guild. When the Communist Party itself is under fire these offer a bulwark of protection.'  
(Internal Security Subcommittee of the Senate Judiciary Committee, Handbook for Americans, S. Doc. 117, April 23, 1956, p. 91.)"